(a) the number of beneficiaries existing in Kerala for educational scholarship towards the Balika Samridhi Yojana Scheme and the amount annually required for meeting the scholarship amount;

(b) the amount granted by Government during the current year for the above purpose and whether is sufficient to meet the requirement; and

(c) whether Government of Kerala sought further allotment for clearing the arrears and if so, the details thereof and whether Government would consider to allot the same to the State of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The number of beneficiaries in Kerala was 66700. The Government of India, released an amount of Rs. 600 lakhs in 2004-2005.

(b) No amount was granted for current financial year.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala demanded funds under the scheme, but it was not allotted because the scheme is likely to be transferred to the States by the Planning Commission. Hence, no fund was allocated in 2005-2006.

Share of women in total workforce

1468. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the share of women in total workforce; and

(b) the steps being taken to augment their share?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per the census of India 2001 data, female workers account for 31.63% share of the total workers in India.

(b) The Government has taken various steps to augment the share of women in the total workeforce. These include:

Programmes and institutional support for skill development and capacity building:

Ministry of Women and Child Development has been implementing the schemes: Support to Training and Employment Programme and Swawlamban, to provide training and skills to women to facilitate them to obtain employment or self employment on a sustainable basis.

Another programme being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, namely, Swayamsidha, aims at holistic empowerment of women through, among other things, economic empowerment and convergence of various schemes.

To give special focus on the skill training development of women, the Directorate General of Employment & Training (DGE&T) under the Ministry of Labour & Employment has set up a Women's Training Directorate which aims at promoting participation of women in skill training. Under the Women's Vocational Training programmes, institutionalized skill training is being offered to women in basic, advanced & post-advanced skills for improving the employability of women in wage/self-employment. In the State Sector, a network of exclusive Women Industrial Training Institutes (WITIs) have been set up under the administrative control of the State Governments.

Special provision for reservation for women:

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 stipulates that at least one third of the beneficiaries of the schemes implemented under Act shall be women.

Some State Governments such as Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu have schemes of reservation for women in Government service.

Creating a positive and congenial work environment for women workers:

A number of protective provisions favouring women have been incorporated in the various labour laws such as Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Factories Act, 1948, the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 etc.

Assistance to women job seekers:

The Employment Exchange take special care to cater to the job needs of women registered with them.

Creches for children of working women

†1469. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open "Shishu Palan Kendras" to look after the children of poor working women in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.